



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/584,965

11/07/2008

Oemer Uensal

12834-00017-US

9971

23416 7590 08/29/2011
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP
P O BOX 2207
WILMINGTON, DE 19899

EXAMINER

APICELLA, KARIE O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1726

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/29/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/584,965	UENSAL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KARIE APICELLA	1726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 28-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☒ Claim(s) 28-62 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species I (Claims 28-55, 59-60 and 62): drawn to a proton-conducting polymer membrane based on polyazoles which is obtained by a process comprising the steps of A) reacting one or more aromatic tetraamino compounds with one or more aromatic carboxylic acids or their esters which contain at least two acid groups per carboxylic acid monomer, or one or more aromatic and/or heteroaromatic diaminocarboxylic acids in the melt at temperatures of up to 350 °C, B) dissolving the solid prepolymer obtained in accordance with step A) in an organic phosphonic anhydrides with formation of a solution and/or dispersion, C) heating the solution obtainable in accordance with step B) under inert gas to temperatures of up to 300 °C with formation of the dissolved polyazole polymer, D) forming a membrane using the solution of the polyazole polymer in accordance with step C) on a support and E) treating the membrane formed in step D) until it is self-supporting.

Species II (Claims 56-58 and 61): drawn to an electrode having a proton-conducting polymer coating based on polyazoles which can be obtained by a process comprising the steps of A) reacting one or more aromatic tetraamino compounds with one or more aromatic carboxylic acids or their esters which contain at least two acid groups per carboxylic acid monomer, or one or more

Art Unit: 1726

aromatic and/or heteroaromatic diaminocarboxylic acids in the melt at temperatures of up to 350 °C, B) dissolving the solid prepolymer obtained in accordance with step A) in an organic phosphonic anhydrides with formation of a solution and/or dispersion, C) heating the solution obtainable in accordance with step B) under inert gas to temperatures of up to 300 °C with formation of the dissolved polyazole polymer, D) forming a layer using the solution of the polyazole polymer in accordance with step C) on an electrode and E) treating the layer formed in step D).

2. In addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, or a single grouping of patentably indistinct species, for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, none of the claims are generic.

There is a search and/or examination burden for the patentably distinct species as set forth above because at least the following reason(s) apply:

Regardless of search method, inventions having different limitations will require different search strategies, and the time to consider the relevancy of collective references for independent and distinct inventions would increase proportionally.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or a grouping of patentably indistinct species

to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and**
(ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species or grouping of
patentably indistinct species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument
that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive
unless accompanied by an election.

The election may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to
petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and
specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election
shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time
of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement
will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after
the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected
species or grouping of patentably indistinct species.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species, or groupings of
patentably indistinct species from which election is required, are not patentably distinct,
applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing them
to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either
instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the prior art, the
evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other
species.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KARIE APICELLA whose telephone number is (571)272-8614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1726

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Karie O'Neill Apicella/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1726

KOA